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LEOMINSTER & WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT  
Herefordshire  
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Joint  
A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and of the  
Sanitary Inspector  
for the year 1954.  
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Staff of the Public Health Department  
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Medical Officer of Health.	I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,
Sanitary Inspector.	G.E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R.San.I.,
Pest Officer.	GEOFFREY E. BULL.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954, which has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and there were no major outbreaks of notifiable disease in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn. Seventy-eight cases of Whooping Cough were brought to the notice of the Authority but they occurred intermittently throughout the first nine months of the year, thirty-two of them during the winter and spring months.

The single case of Poliomyelitis that was notified, arose in the North-West of the district. It will be recalled that in July of last year advice was received from the Ministry of Health on the precautions that should now be taken to try to prevent the spread of Poliomyelitis following notification of a case. New evidence on the probable channels by which the virus of Polio is disseminated throughout the community from small isolated pockets of infection surrounding the first notified cases, has led to the decision to introduce quarantine measures on all home contacts for a period of three weeks from the occurrence of the disease. It is hoped that during these three weeks quarantine the virus will disappear naturally from the case and from healthy contacts who may be carrying it. Though this measure will almost certainly be of benefit to the community it is bound to inflict hardship on some people, particularly through loss of earnings by adults who, though in good health, are prevented from following their normal occupation for the three weeks quarantine period.

A notable event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and to state the numbers of such houses that we expect to be able to deal with each year. The Housing Survey that was completed in December 1946 revealed that there were some 368 houses in the district that were unfit for human habitation and that could not be made fit at reasonable expense. Though that figure will require alteration in view of changes in the housing situation that have taken place during intervening years, it is clear that a problem of some magnitude and considerable complexity will face the Council when the time comes to implement the relevant portions of this Housing Act.



It was with pleasure that we learned of the Government's decision to terminate meat rationing in July 1954. This decision involved the abandonment of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food, (for our area, at the Leominster Abattoir) and the reintroduction of the licensing of private slaughter-houses. In view of the Government's declared policy of restoring centralised slaughtering some time in the future and to authorise the provision of major abattoir facilities in comparatively few centres throughout the country, cognisance had to be taken of this when re-licensing existing private slaughter-houses because costly improvements at these private slaughter-houses might lead to claims for compensation against the Council from the owners of such private slaughter-houses when the official policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering was effected.

It is with pleasure that your Sanitary Inspector and I express our appreciation of the interest taken in our day to day work and the support afforded us by the Chairman (Mr. H.C. Fawke) and the Members of the Housing Committee.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.  
Telephone No. Leominster 2595.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	94,101
Population	.. .. .	10,240
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books)		3,230
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£48,908
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£194. 6. 3d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	143	72	71
	(Illegitimate)	10	5	5
	Total	153	77	76
STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	2	-	2
DEATHS	.. .. .	115	61	54
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	..	1		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	(Legitimate)	6	2	4
	(Illegitimate)	1	1	-
	Total	7	3	4

# COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	14.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	15.2
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	.	12.9
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	24.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	11.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	..	45.7
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	..	25.5

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

### WATER SUPPLIES

The major part of the district is supplied by private wells, only a few parishes being favoured with a piped water. The parishes with a piped supply are as follows:--

Leintwardine	Adforton
Wigmore	Richards Castle
Brampton Bryan	Shobdon

#### Leintwardine

Samples of water from the well supplying Leintwardine have been taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological analysis and results have been satisfactory. Chlorination of the water is carried out. The plan to pipe the water to a larger part of the village and to renew the existing main has been put into operation and should be completed in 1955.

#### Wigmore

The temporary supply for this village is unchanged. The plan to lay new mains has not yet been put into operation.

### WATER SAMPLING

#### (a) Public Supplies

All mains water supplies in the district are sampled at regular intervals and results have been satisfactory.

#### (b) Wells etc.

141 Bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Hereford for analysis. These samples produced the following results:--

Satisfactory	112
Unsatisfactory	29

### CHEMICAL SAMPLING

Three chemical samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Birmingham for analysis. These samples produced the following results:--

Satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	Nil



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

### Housing Sites

Sewage Disposal Works on housing sites have been inspected weekly and maintained in good order. The contents are removed at regular intervals from the septic tanks, thus ensuring efficient working of the plants.

Sewage disposal in the district is by private septic tanks and filters, or by the conservancy system.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of any rivers or streams was reported during the year.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Domestic refuse collection is carried out by the Local Authority and is working well. Additional collections are now being made in the following parishes:-

Kingsland	Bodenham
Leintwardine	Brimfield
Orleton	Little Hereford
Richards Castle	Wigmore

Tips are situated at Shobdon, Fidler's Elbow, Leintwardine, Bodenham and Brimfield.

## DISINFECTION on account of INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Thirty-three inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at eleven houses.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Food.

Inspections, etc. under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	440	132	4	113
Factories Acts .. .. .	101	7	-	6
Milk Regulations 1949 . . .	117	-	-	-
Bakehouses .. .. .	35	5	-	5
Food Premises .. .. .	511	6	-	6
Schools .. .. .	24	1	-	1
Water Supplies .. .. .	174	31	-	31
Infectious Disease .. .. .	33	-	-	-
Knackers Yard .. .. .	49	3	-	3
Hop-Pickers Quarters .. .. .	16	3	-	3

## FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

One hundred and one inspections have been made at the factories in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally, employing only two or three persons. Seven informal notices have been served for minor defects, four of these were for want of cleanliness, two for drainage of floors and one for insufficient sanitary conveniences. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

#### INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	43	39	7	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	15	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	32	47	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>

## HOUSING

Number of Council Houses built by the Local Authority in 1954

Permanent Brick .. 14

The number of houses built by Private Persons:-

Permanent Brick .. 11

#### INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. .. .. 252
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 440
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. .. .. 134

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-
  - (a) By Owners .. .. Nil
  - (b) By Local Authority  
in default of Owners Nil

## NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	..	131
Statutory	..	4

## DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out:-

Spouting Repaired .. .. 29	Pumps repaired .. 28
Roofs .. .. 39	Dangerous Walls .. 3
Drains .. .. 56	Defective Floors .. 33
Dampness .. .. 6	Windows Repaired .. 35
Septic Tanks Constructed .. 31	Doors Repaired .. 28
W.Cs. Provided .. .. 35	Chimneys Repaired . 29
Defective Cesspools .. 9	Plaster Repaired .. 32
New Sinks Fitted .. .. 39	Defective Cooking facilities .. 30
Baths fitted . .. 31	Stairs Repaired .. 3
W.Cs. Repaired .. .. 1	Pantries Provided .. 5
Foul Earth Closets .. 3	Washing facilities provided .. 28
Defective Wells .. .. 23	Other Nuisances .. 31
New Wells .. .. 8	

## HOUSING ACT, 1949

Eight Grants were made during the year for improvements to private dwelling houses.

## VAN DWELLINGS

There are several van dwellings in the district. Most of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. The remainder are of a temporary nature and are privately owned. In general, they obtain their water from the nearest dwelling and use chemical closets.

## CAMPING SITES

Where camping does occur in the district it is only for short periods.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Survey of all premises is being carried out under the above Act. Private dwelling houses have been treated free of charge. Treatment is available, when required, for business and industrial properties.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total	
I Number of properties in Local Authority's District .. ..	6	2473	188	2667	566
II Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	-	35	7	42	3
(b) Survey under the Act	6	507	78	591	199
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visiting primarily for some other purpose)	-	41	19	60	36
IV Number of properties inspected (in Sect II) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats Major	1	1	4	6	14
Minor	5	118	-	123	42
(b) Mice Major	-	22	-	22	2
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
V Number of infested properties (in Sect IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	141	-	147	-
VI Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments	28	146	-	174	-
VII Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
X Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	5	-	5	-

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Five hundred and eleven inspections were made at various foodshops in the district. Seven notices were served and these were carried out. The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Tinned Fruit	26 lb.	Bacon	32
" veg.	51 lb.	Meat	830
" milk	14 lb	Dehydrated	
" meat	36 lb.	Onions	12
" soup	14 lb	Dehydrated	
" fish	13	Cabbage	12

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Two licences were granted during the year for private Slaughter Houses in the District.

## NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES

<u>TYPE OF PREMISES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PREMISES</u>
(a) GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, vegetables game and pre-packed ice-cream)	18
(b) SWEETS & SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (including sale of pre-packed ice-cream)	Included in (a)
(c) RESTAURANTS & CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS (including Fish and Chip Fryers, sale of pre-packed ice-cream)	8
(d) LICENSED PREMISES (hotels, inns and clubs)	24
(e) BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS	7
(f) BUTCHERS	5
(g) CENTRAL KITCHEN for SCHOOL MEALS	1
(h) CORN STORES AND SHOPS	5
Total	68

## NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES, by TYPE, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 of the FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

### (i) SALE OF PRE-PACKED ICE CREAM

Grocers	11
Restaurants & Catering Establishments	3
Confectioners	1
Butchers	1
Total	16

### (j) PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, OR POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED or PRESERVED FOOD.

Butchers	1
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Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies).

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD:-

Meat - to the Knackers Yard.

Other Foods - by burial.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	8	1	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	7	13	14	36	5	-	3	-	78
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	2	-	6	-	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
(Other)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of fifty-three males and thirty-one females who normally reside within the district.

During the year four new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; and one case moved into the district from another district.

During the same period, two persons recovered and one left the district.



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26  
Vaccination and Immunisation.

Number of children in the district who were treated during  
the year :-

Purpose of Injection	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination									Reinforcing Injections.
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	29	50	10	4	6	36	2	-	137	181
Immunisation against Whooping Cough.	25	34	7	2	2	-	-	-	70	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	65	1	1	-	-	2	-	3	82	10

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease						Males	Females	TOTAL
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..		-	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases					-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..			3	-	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..				-	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..			-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..			-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms					3	5	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..		1	-	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..				8	9	17
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..		11	2	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	.	..			-	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..		16	15	31
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..			-	2	2
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..				-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..			-	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..				-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..		-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..		1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..				-	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..		-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases					12	7	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..		1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..		2	2	4
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.	..			-	-	-

All causes

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